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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Belorussian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. NCO School No. 3 for Artillery Spotting in Kolodishchi
2. Military Units in Grodno

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The city of Kolodishchi N 53-56, E 27-46, situated about 12 kilometers from Minsk, was bisected by the main Minsk/Moscow road and railroad line. A military cantonment (voyenny gorodok) was located in the center of the settlement, between the railroad line and the road, and housed a staff training unit and NCO School No. 3 for Artillery Spotting (3-ya Shkola Artilleriyskoy Instrumentalnoy Razvedki). All of the installations within the cantonment were linked by a telephone network. In 1949-1950, the NCO School was transferred from Kolodishchi to the vicinity of Velikiye-Luki N 56-20, E 30-32, reportedly in the area of the artillery range (poligon) there. [redacted] by 1957 the cantonment had been enlarged. [redacted] the construction of two three-story buildings, and [redacted] a large housing project for officers' families had been erected on the opposite side of the road. 50X1-HUM
2. The staff training unit trained artillery units on a site which the soldiers called Artilleriyskiy Poligon, but which was officially designated the Minsk Artillery Training Camp (Minskiy Uchebnyy Artilleriyskiy Lager -MUAL). The grounds were located behind the Kolodishchi railroad station and covered an extensive area of sand and forest. In 1948/1949, this was the main artillery training field of the Belorussian Military District and was used for field firing exercises by armored and artillery units stationed throughout the republic. 50X1-HUM

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

-2-

50X1-HUM

NCO School No. 3 for Artillery Spotting

3. In 1947/1948, NCO School No. 3 for Artillery Spotting enrolled between 800 and 1,000 students, who were drawn from various artillery units. The students were required to have had at least an elementary school education and to have been recently recruited. They were divided into the following three battalions: sound ranging (zvukovaya razvedka) training battalion, topographical reconnaissance (topograficheskaya razvedka) training battalion, and visual spotting and photography (opticheskaya i fotograficheskaya razvedka) training battalion.
4. The students of the sound ranging battalion were taught the principles of electricity, algebra, and physics. The lecturers in these and in all practical subjects were the battalion and battery commanders. The officers of this battalion were the commander (lieutenant colonel), the chief of staff (major), the assistant chief of staff (captain), the deputy for political affairs (lieutenant colonel), the deputy for operations (major), and the quartermaster (captain). The battalion commander had a GAZ-67 truck at his disposal, while two GAZ-AAA (sic) trucks were available for the rest of the staff officers. A radio squad was attached to battalion headquarters.
5. The sound ranging battalion was composed of 120 to 130 men divided into three batteries: sound detector battery, flash detector battery, and topographical reconnaissance battery. The battalion also included a platoon of mechanics who were trained to charge batteries and service the charging equipment. According to the T/O, a battalion for spotting by mechanical means (divizion instrumentalnoy razvedki) served an artillery brigade of two regiments.
6. The sound detector battery was commanded either by a major or by a captain, who was assisted by two lieutenants: one in charge of the enemy battery detector squad and the other in charge of calculations. In order to form a base, the battery, which comprised 40 to 50 men, advanced six microphone squads that were emplaced in three pairs, two or three kilometers apart; the base was about ten kilometers long. The positions were called sound posts (zvukovyye posty), and each squad was equipped with a sensitive microphone to which were attached a transformer and a battery. These sound posts were connected by telephone and cable communications to the central battery detector, which was situated three or four kilometers to the rear. Detected firing sounds were automatically transmitted via the cable and were graphically recorded on the paper roll of the main battery detector. (In 1951, tapes were about to be introduced for recording data at the battery detector and, according to rumor, German equipment was imported for this purpose.) The data were processed at the main post by a decoding and calculations squad. A meteorological squad of two men, also stationed at the main post, provided additional data to be used in the calculations. This squad was equipped with a radio/sounder, theodolite, and thermometer and also supplied data to the artillery brigade headquarters. For early warning purposes, the battery advanced one or two listening posts (peredniy predupreditelnyy post) some six to eight kilometers to the fore, in the vicinity of the advanced artillery observation post. The listening posts and the enemy battery detection command post were linked by a telephone cable, through which the former could activate the sound detector when artillery was heard. The method of comparative ranging was not used in training exercises, and the battery was taught to range only by means of the sound detector. Prior to an attack, the battery advanced a sound detector base of three squads, while the remainder of its forces remained in the rear, prepared to advance. It took five to seven hours to

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

-3-

50X1-HUM

deploy the entire battery detector unit, whose calculations were accurate to a distance of about 50 meters from the actual target. The unit was equipped with three ZIS-150 trucks, one for carrying the main battery detector equipment and two for conveying men and other equipment. The men were armed with PPSH submachine guns, which, reportedly, were later replaced by Kalashnikov-type submachine guns.

7. The flash detector battery was composed of about 30 men divided into five or six squads, one of which was in charge of calculations. The battery included a signal squad, which laid telephone cables, and a photography squad, which took panoramic photographs. The flash detector battery was commanded by either a major or a captain assisted by two lieutenants, one in charge of calculations. The base formed by this battery was about ten kilometers long and was deployed in two or three hours

50X1-HUM

8. The topographical reconnaissance battery was composed of 25 to 30 men and was equipped with four TT-2 theodolites and two ZIS-150 trucks. The battery included three officers: the battery commander and two squad commanders. It served all the other batteries of the spotting battalion and all the artillery units of the brigade concerned. The artillery brigade comprised the following subordinate units:

- a. An artillery regiment composed of six batteries, each with three 100-mm guns and four prime movers (one in reserve).
- b. A howitzer regiment composed of six batteries, each with three 152-mm howitzers and four prime movers (one in reserve).
- c. A battalion for spotting by mechanical means.
- d. A services battery.

Military Units in Grodno

9. The 347th Artillery Brigade (347-ya Korpusnaya Artilleriyskaya Brigada), which was a part of the 9th Corps, was stationed on the banks of the Neman River in Grodno N 53-41, E 23-50, to the rear of the Woollen Cloth Weaving Combine (Tonko-Sukonnyy Kombinat) and in the vicinity of the Russian Orthodox, German, and Polish Cemetery.

50X1-HUM

Subordinate units of the brigade were the 370th Artillery Regiment, equipped with 100-mm guns; the 83rd Howitzer Regiment, equipped with 152-mm howitzers; and the Separate Artillery Spotting Battalion (Otdelnyy Razvedyvatelnyy Artillerivskiy Divizion)

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The artillery units of the brigade the 370th and the 83rd Regiments) trained at a proving grounds (poligon) in the vicinity of Grodno

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They also trained at a summer camp on the banks of the Neman, near the Grandichi settlement.

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10. In 1950/1951, the following other military units were stationed in Grodno:

- a. The 55th Mechanized Rifle Division, which was also part of the 9th Corps. The entire division was stationed at the former Polish barracks in the vicinity of the town railroad station.
- b. A katyusha battalion and an engineer battalion, which were stationed in the vicinity of the 55th Mechanized Rifle Division.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

-4-

- c. A border troop school, which was located on Grandicheskaya ulitsa in the vicinity of the theater.
- d. The headquarters of the 9th Corps, which occupied a three-story building near the municipal park, in the town center.
- e. The headquarters of the 28th Army, also located in the town center, adjacent to the state bank. An artillery brigade of the 28th Army was stationed at Albertin \sqrt{N} 53-05, E 25-23 and comprised three artillery regiments and a 150-mm mortar regiment. A tank regiment was stationed at the same location.

Personalities

11. The following were officers of NCO School No. 3 for Artillery Spotting in Kolodishchi:

- a. Col. Shteva (fnu), commander of the school [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- b. Lt. Col. Goldshteyn (fnu), chief of staff at the school [redacted]
- c. Capt. Polyakov (fnu), political deputy at the school [redacted]
- d. Sen. Lt. or Capt. Pechinin (fnu), technical officer [redacted]

12. The following were officers of the Special Artillery Spotting Battalion in Grodno:

- a. Lt. Col. Sinelnikov (fnu), commander of the battalion [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- b. Lt. Col. Bublikov (fnu), political deputy of the battalion [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- c. Maj. Gaponov (fnu), commander of the visual spotting battery of the battalion [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- d. Capt. Khinchin (fnu), commander of the topographical reconnaissance battery of the battalion [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- e. Capt. Vasilyev (fnu), unit doctor.
- f. Lt. Shcherbakov (fnu), secretary of the Komsomol cell.

13. The following were officers of the 347th Artillery Brigade stationed in Grodno:

- a. Col. Genrikh Aronovich Eugenfirov, commander of the brigade [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- b. Lt. Col. Tseytlin (fnu), political deputy of the brigade [redacted]

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

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S-E-C-R-E-T

-5-

14. Maj. Monterov (fnu) was chief field security officer (kontrazvedka) in the artillery brigade which was stationed in Grodno

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15. photograph of an enemy battery detector set
pishushchaya statya batarei zvukovoy razvedki) of the type used

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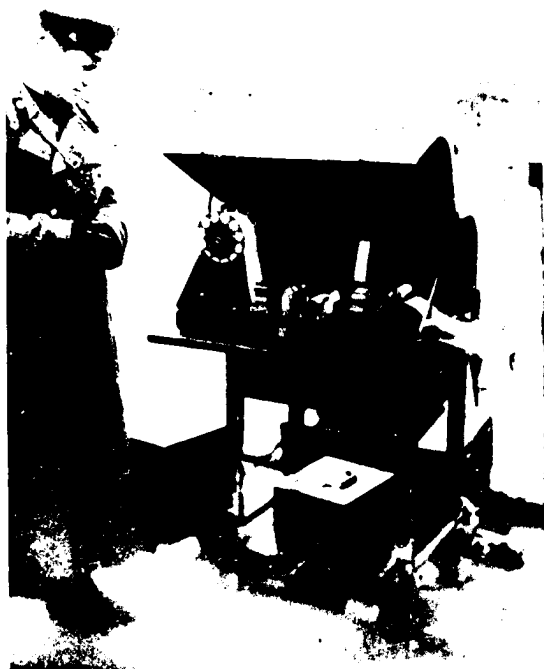
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SR
NEW BATTERY DETECTOR SET.

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